REMARKS

Again, applicants thank the Examiner for her Office Action dated March 27, 2003 and also for her helpful guidance in the May 7, 2003 telephonic interview. Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application. This includes the six (6) original claims and eleven (11) claims added by preliminary amendment dated November 21, 2000. Also, in the November 21, 2000 preliminary amendment, Claim 3 was amended. Moreover, in this amendment Claim 8 is amended to correct typographical errors. Thus, Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Weaver* (USPN 5,935,268) in view of *Glaise* (USPN 6,189,124). The office action submits that the cited references teach

"calculating (generating) a first error detection code (CRC) for data packet" and

"calculating a second error detection code (CRC) for data packet" and

"combining the first CRC value and the second CRC value thereby creating a third error

detection (CRC) value wherein combining the first and second CRC values is performed by an

exclusive OR". Importantly, such limitations are not applicable to the claims of the present

invention.

For example, Claim 1 is "A method of preparing a data packet for transmission over an interconnect link, the method comprising:

calculating a first CRC value for a **payload segment** of a data packet;

calculating a second CRC value for a **sequence number** of the data packet;

combining the first CRC value and the second CRC value thereby creating a third CRC value; and

combining the third CRC value with the payload segment of the data packet thereby creating a transmittable data packet" (emphasis added).

Weaver teaches a distinct method of encapsulating a data packet so that it can flow through a data transmission network having several data transmission formats. *Weaver* teaches

using a modified CRC code to account for the fact that various changes to the message (necessary to allow the message to navigate through networks having differing data transmission formats) render the original CRC code invalid for error detection. The claimed invention effectively separates the "payload segment" and the "sequence number" of a data packet and individually calculates a separate CRC code for each portion. Then the two codes are used to generate a third CRC code which is then integrated into a final payload. Nothing of the sort is taught in *Weaver*. Moreover, the *Galois* reference does nothing to further teach or suggest the individual calculation of a CRC code for a "payload segment" and for a "sequence number". Therefore, because neither *Weaver* nor *Galois* (or any reasonable combination thereof) teach the calculation of a CRC code for a "payload segment" and for a "sequence number" and the use of these two codes to generate a third code, these references fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness as to Claim 1 (and the claims depending there from i.e., Claims 2-6). The whole point of the present invention is to increase the usable size of the payload while still retaining a satisfactory error detection capacity. This is not the focus of either of the cited references.

As to Claim 2, neither of the cited references teach "extracting a plurality of inversion bits from the data packet before calculating the first CRC value for the payload segment". Thus, for this additional reason the cited art fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness as to Claim 2.

As for Claim 3, neither of the cited references teach "extracting the sequence number from the data packet before calculating the second CRC value for the sequence number <u>thereby allowing more space in the payload segment for data</u>". Thus, for this additional reason the cited art fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness as to Claim 3 (and the Claims depending therefrom, e.g., Claim 4).

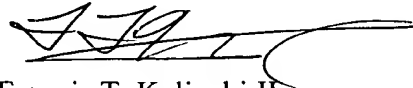Additionally, Claims 7-17 remain unexamined at this time.

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-6 and further request consideration of Claims 7-17 at this time

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner, for any reason, wish to contact the undersigned, she is cordially invited to do so at her convenience. Moreover, if the Examiner has any continuing concerns regarding this case, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (831) 655-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Francis T. Kalinski II
Reg. No. 44,177

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
(831) 655-2300